

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 01806 120736Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 /069 W

----- 104538

R 120610Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 575

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 1806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) POSITION ON QADOUM
SETTLERS

BEGIN SUMMARY: INTERIOR MINISTER BRUG (NRP) WARNED RABIN
MARCH 9 THAT GOI DECISION TO EVACUATE QADOUM SETTLERS COULD
PROVOKE RESIGNATION OF ALL THREE NRP MINISTERS AND
CABINET CRISIS. BURG-RABIN MEETING ON QADOUM TOOK PLACE
AGAINST BACKDROP OF MERGER OF NRP YOUTH GROUP AND WARHAFTIG
SUPPORTERS INTO NEW FACTION WHOSE DECLARED AIM IS TO TOPPLE
BURG-RAPHAEL LEADERSHIP AT PARTY CONVENTION IN NOVEMBER. THESE
NRP HARDLINERS, WHO HAVE WON THE DNDORSEMENT OF GUSH EMUNIM
ACTIVISTS FAVOR INTRANSIGENT ANTI-WITHDRAWAL AND
PRO-SETTLEMENT STAND ON THE WEST BANK AND FORMATION OF
NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT. GOI HANDLING OF QADOUM THUS IS
LOOMING UP AS CRITICAL PHASE IN EFFORT OF RELATIVELY
MODERATE AND PRAGMATIC SENIOR NRP LEADERSHIP TO RETAIN
ITS CONTROL OF THE PARTY. UNDER THESE PRESSURES, BURG
AND RAPHAEL HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ADOPT FIRM STAND AGAINST
REMOVAL OF QADOUM SETTLERS. END SUMMARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 01806 120736Z

1. PRIME MINISTER RABIN IS COMING UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM PRO AND ANTI-SETTLEMENT FORCES REGARDING PENDING CABINET DISCUSSION OF ILLEGAL SETTLERS AT QADOUM ARMY CAMP NEAR SEBASTIA (SEPTTEL). HAARETZ MARCH 10 JUXTAPOSES TWO FRONT-PAGE STORIES ON ACTIVITY WITHIN THE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY AGAINST THE EVACUATION OF THE QADOUM SETTLEMRS. ONE OF THESE STORIES REPORTS ON A MARCH 9 MEETING BETWEEN RABIN AND INTERIOR MINISTER BURG OF THE NRP ON THE ISSUE WHILE THE OTHER REPORTS THAT THE GUSH EMUNIM RELIGIOUS SETTLERS ORGANIZATION, WHICH HAS SPEAR-HEADED THE QADOUM OPERATION, HAS COME OUT OPENLY IN SUPPORT OF A NEW NRP FACTION WHOSE DECLARED AIR IS TO TAKE OVER THE NRP LEADERSHIP FROM BURG AND HIS MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUE YITZHAK RAPHAEL.

2. ACCORDING TO THE HAARETZ ACCOUNT, BURG EXPRESSED TO RABIN HIS SURPRISE THAT "CIRCLES CLOSE TO FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON" HAVE DEMANDED THE IMMEDIATE EVCUATION OF QADOUM WHILE ALON IS STILL OUT OF THE COUNTRY (AS REPORTED IN HAARETZ THE PREVIOUS DAY). BURG SAID THAT SUCH A DEMAND IS AIMED AT CREATING A COALITION CRISIS AND PERHAPS EVEN FORCING AN EARLY ELECTION. BURG THEN TOLD RABIN THAT IT VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER HAMMER OF THE NRP, HEAD OF THE HARDLINER YOUGH GROUP, WOULD RESIGN. HAMMER'S RESIGNATION WOULD PUT HEAVY PRESSURE ON BURG AND RAPHAEL TO DO LIKEWISE. BURG PRESUMABLY MET WITH RABIN TO TRY TO PREVENT THIS SITUATION FROM DEVELOPING.

3. OPPOSITION TO THE EVACUATION OF QADOUM BY BURG, WHO IS ONE OF THE MOST MODERATE AD PRAGMATIC OF THE NRP LEADERS, CONFIRMS THAT THE PARTY IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN A HARD LINE ON THE QUESTION. THE EVOLUTION OF THIS STANCE IS THE RESULT OF THE INTERACTION BETWEEN NRP FACTIONS AND PERSONALITIES HIGHLIGHTED BY THE REALIGNMENT OF FORCES IN RECENT DAYS WITHIN THE PARTY. A NEW FACTION, MERGING THE YOUGH GROUP HEADED BY HAMMER AND MK BEN-MEIR WITH FORMER MINISTER WARHAFTIG'S SUPPORTERS, HAS DECLARED THAT IT AIMS TO WIN A MAJORITY AT THE NEXT PARTY CONVENTION (SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER) AND TO OUST THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF BURG AND RAPHAEL. THE NEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 01806 120736Z

FACTION, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES MEMERS OF NRP SETTLEMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACADEMICS, ESPOUSES A NATIONALISTIC-RELIGIOUS IDEOLOGICAL APPROACH WHICH TRANSLATES INTO A RIGID ANTI-WITHDRAWAL AND PRO-SETTLEMENT STANCE ON THE WEST BANK. THE FACTION CLAIMS TO CONTROL 37 PERCENT OF THE PARTY ALREADY. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE LEADERS OF THE NEW FACTION HAVE SAID IN PRIVATE MEETINGS THAT, IF THEY FAIL TO TAKE OVER THE NRP, THEY WOULD LEAVE THE PARTY AND FORM A SEPARATE

MOVEMENT.

4. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, AMOS EIRAN, TOLD THE DCM MARCH 11 THAT THE HAARETZ ACCOUNT OF THE RABIN-BURG MEETING IS ACCURATE. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE JUXTAPOSITION OF THIS STORY WITH THE RELATED ONE ON GUSH EMUNIM SUPPORT FOR THE NEW YOUGH GROUP/WARHAFTIG FACTION; CLEARLY BURG WAS COMING UNDER PRESSURE. EIRAN FURTHER SAID THAT THE CABINET WOUD NOT REPEAT NOT TAKE UP THE QADOUM ISSUE AT ITS MARCH 14 MEETING. INSTEAD RABIN PLANS TO HOLD A CABINET DISCUSSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF SETTLEMENT IN THE TERRITORIES DURING WHICH THE QADOUM QUESTION WILL BE CONSIDERED.

5. COMMENT: RABIN APPARENTLY INTENDS TO TRY TO PUT OFF THE INEVITABLE SHOWDOWN A LITTLE WHILE LONGER, BUT HIS MEETING WITH BURG CLEARLY HIGHLIGHTS INTERPLAY BETWEEN DOMESTIC POLITICIS AND GOI POLICY ON THE WEST BANK. A BATTLE ROYAL IS LOOMING UP WHICH PITS THE NRP/GUSH EMUNIM AND DEFENSE MINISTER PERES (SEE SETEL) ON ONE SIDE AGAINST MAPAM, THE INDEPENDENT LIBERALS AND LABOR PARTY MODERATES INCLUDING ALLON ON THE OTHER. FOR THE BURG-RAPHAEL LEADERSHIP TEAM, HOWEVER, THE ISSUE IS NOT ONLY WEST ANK SETTLEMENTS OR WHERE THEY STAND ON THE TERRITORIAL QUESTION. IT ALSO INVOLVES THE VERY TANGIBLE CONSIDERATION OF HOLDING ON TO THEIR PRECARIOUS PERCH AT THE TOP OF THE NRP.
TOON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, LAND SETTLEMENT, EMERGENCY EVACUATION, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, SQUATTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV01806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760094-0025
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760364/aaaacevo.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY (NRP) POSITION ON QADOUM SETTLERS
TAGS: PINT, IS, NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006